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An Exact

JOURNAL

OF THE

Siege of Lymerick,

From the 8th to the 15th of *September*, 1691.

From an Officer in the Camp, to his Friend in *London*.

26. Sept. 1691

ON the Ninth, about Two in the Afternoon the Enemy came out, and appeared as if they intended a Sally, but designed only to ſecure a Ditch that lay betwixt them and our Batteries, which was no ſooner known, but our Men marcht down upon them, and beat them back into the Town, killing about 30, with the loſs only of one Granadeer: All this day our Guns and Mortars plaid furiouſly on the Town, and ſo continued all Night without intermiſſion; On the 12th, in the Morning early came over to us one Captain *Dobbins*, who ſays, That yeſterday in beating the Enemy into the Town we killed two of their Majors, and one of our Bombs killed Monſieur *La Four*, who was Brother to the Governour, and that the Governour and Officers, to keep up the Hearts of the Town and Gariſon, aſſure them, that the *French* Fleet have totally beat the *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, and forced thoſe *Engliſh* Veſſels with Captain *Cole* into the *Shannon*, but that day, or within 48 hours a Squadron of *French* would come into the River to their Relief, and wholly deſtroy the *Engliſh*, &c.

That the Gariſon Conſiſted of about 15000, of which but 7 or 8000 were well armed, and had no Horſe, nor did any Horſe come there in the Night to Guard. All this day we continued Firing, and about Six at Night the Town appeared on Fire, in many places; to prevent its ſpreading, the Enemy blew up Divers Houſes and Buildings, notwithſtanding which, ſome very Conſiderable Place continued burning with great violence until Two the next Morning.

The 11th in the Morning came to the General, ſome Officers of *Cunningham*'s Regiment of Dragoons, now at *Sligo*, with an Expreſs from their Lieutenant Col. *Echlin*, of the loſs of their Coll. and to pray the General's Favour to have the Regiment: The ſaid Coll, Sir *Albert Cunningham*'s Regiment being detached from the Camp to join the Forces for the reducing of *Sligo*, and he ſtaying after them, did follow with Ten Men only as a Guard. In their March, upon the Hills near *Boyle*, they unhappily miſtook their way in a Fogg, and fell into the Hands of 2 or 300 *Rapparees*, to whom they ſold their Lives at the utmoſt Rate, killing about 25, but were at laſt over-

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pour'd, and cut in pieces, whoſe Blood was ſoon reveng'd by *Balderick O Donnel*, who was in hearing of the Guns, but came too late to ſave the Brave Coll. however he kill'd many of them, and Routed the reſt: We continued to batter and Bomb the Town all this day and all night.

The 12*th*, Laſt night and this day we continued firing into the Town without Intermiſſion. This Morning came to us Ten Dragoons and an Officer, Deſerters, who ſay, That in the great Fire that was in the Town on the Tenth at night, the Bombs ſet Fire to Three Magazines; one of Powder, which in blowing up, ſet Fire unto, and burnt great part of the *Engliſh Town*, and much other Miſchiefs, the other two of Beef, Bisket, Oates, Brandy and Wine, which was all deſtroy'd, and would be ſoon wanted amongſt them.

The Weather hitherto continues very good; the Breach in the Wall is very wide, and is every moment wider: Our Guns continually firing thereat, which gives us hopes of being Maſters thereof in a very few days, above half the Town being already ruin'd with our Ball, Bombs, Carcaſſes, &c. Our Men are Impatient to Storm, but when it will be we know not, all things being kept ſecret until put in Action.

The 13*th*. the General ſent an Expreſs to the Queen, and we continued all day to Batter the Town.

The 14*th* the General ſent two Regiments towards *Clonmell* and *Waterford* to reinforce the Militia, there being many Priſoners at the latter, and the *Iriſh* in thoſe parts become Inſolent. His Excellency hath alſo ſent Miners and Guards to ſupport them, with Orders to blow up and demoliſh Caſtle *Connell* and the other Caſtles we have taken near *Lymerick* on the *Shannon*, and elſewhere, to prevent their being any more Neſts of Rebels, Raparees, &c.

The 15*th* we continued to Bomb and Batter the Town, and made the Breaches ſo wide that we plainly ſee into the Town, which looks ruinous. The Enemy have made much Sod-works, and a very deep Trench or Ditch with Palliſadoes and Stockadoes, yet the Men continue impatient to ſtorm, they hoping to have had Orders to have made this night a general Aſſault, but as yet hear nothing thereof, though ſome think the Camp are ready for the work in all points.

Dublin the 17*th*. This night was Publiſhed a Proclamation of the Lords Juſtices for a full and free Pardon to all Raparees and others in Arms againſt the Government, provided they come in and lay down their Arms in 20 days, otherwiſe to be excluded from Mercy, and not only leave given for any Perſon to kill them, but a reward of 40*s*. for each Head brought in, Which ſhall immediately be paid by the next Juſtice of Peace, and the publick Revenue to reimburſe it, which it's thought will be an effectual way to clear the whole Kingdom, and prove more advantageous than droves of Cattel to the Raparee Hunters.

Licenſed, September *the* 24*th*, 1691. J. F.

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